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October 19, 2005

**EX PARTE**

**ORIGINAL**

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: In the Matter of Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, CC  
Docket No. 96-45

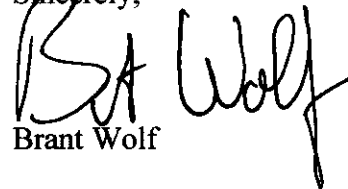
Dear Ms. Dortch:

Representatives from the Oregon Telecommunications Association (OTA) met with Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) Commissioner Ray Baum, a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, and OPUC Staff Member Andy Margeson on October 13, 2005. Representatives of OTA, Brant Wolf, Executive Vice President, Mitch Moore, President, and Gail Long met with Commissioner Baum and Mr. Margeson to express concerns over the State Allocation Mechanism.

Concerns were expressed about the predictability of the SAM for rural carriers and the costs of administration for such a program. In addition, concerns were expressed that the plan did not have sufficient details expressed at the present time to fully evaluate the SAM.

One electronic copy of this notice is being submitted in accordance with the Commission's rules.

Sincerely,



Brant Wolf

cc: Ray Baum  
Andy Margeson

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